

What I claim is:

1. A dosage form of a pharmaceutical composition which comprises an effective amount of a centrally-acting acetylcholinesterase inhibitor wherein the acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is formulated so as to delay its activity for a predetermined period.
2. A dosage form of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the composition is formulated to delay the activity of the acetyl cholinesterase inhibitor for a period of from four to twelve hours.
3. A dosage form of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 2 wherein the composition is formulated to delay the activity of the acetyl cholinesterase inhibitor for a period of from six to nine hours.
4. A dosage form of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 2 wherein the composition is formulated to delay the activity of the acetyl cholinesterase inhibitor for a period of from eight to twelve hours.
5. A dosage form of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor has a duration of action of from 2 to 12 hours.
6. A dosage form of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor has a half life of from one to eleven hours
7. A dosage form of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of galanthamine, lycoramine and analogs of said compounds wherein the methoxy group thereof is replaced by another alkoxy group of from one to six carbon atoms, a hydroxy group, hydrogen, an alkanoyloxy group, a benzoyloxy or substituted benzoyloxy group, a carbonate group or a carbamate group.

8. A dosage form of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of analogs of galanthamine and lycoramine wherein the hydroxy group of galanthamine or lycoramine is replaced by an alkoxy group of from one to six carbon atoms, hydrogen, an alkanoyloxy group, a benzoyloxy or substituted benzoyloxy group, a carbonate group or a carbamate group.
9. A dosage form of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of analogs of galanthamine and lycoramine wherein the N-methyl group of galanthamine or lycoramine is replaced by hydrogen, alkyl, benzyl or a cyclopropylmethyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted benzoyloxy group.
10. A dosage form as claimed in claim 7 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of galanthamine, lycoramine and analogs thereof wherein the methoxy group of such compounds is replaced by a hydrogen, hydroxy or alkoxy group of from two to six carbon atoms or an acyloxy group of from one to seven carbon atoms.
11. A dosage form as claimed in claim 7 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of analogs of galanthamine or lycoramine wherein the methoxy group thereof is replaced by a mono or dialkyl carbamate or carbonate group wherein the alkyl groups contain from 1 to 8 carbon atoms
12. A dosage form as claimed in claim 11 wherein the alkyl group or groups of said carbonate or carbamate groups comprise from 4 to 6 carbon atoms
13. A dosage form as claimed in claim 7 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of analogs of galanthamine or lycoramine wherein the hydroxy group thereof is replaced by a mono or dialkyl carbamate or carbonate group

wherein the alkyl groups contain from 1 to 8 carbon atoms.

14. A dosage form as claimed in claim 12 wherein the alkyl group or groups of said carbonate or carbamate groups comprise from 4 to 6 carbon atoms

15 A dosage form as claimed in claim 7 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of analogs of galanthamine or lycoramine wherein the methoxy group thereof is replaced by an aryl carbamate or carbonate group wherein said aryl group is selected from phenyl, naphthyl, substituted phenyl and substituted naphthyl groups wherein said substituent is selected from alkyl and alkoxy groups of from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, trifluoro methyl groups and halo groups.

16 A dosage form as claimed in claim 8 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of analogs of galanthamine and lycoramine wherein the hydroxy group thereof is replaced by an aryl carbamate or carbonate group wherein said aryl group is selected from phenyl, naphthyl, substituted phenyl and substituted naphthyl groups wherein said substituent is selected from alkyl and alkoxy groups of from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, trifluoro methyl groups and halo groups.

17 A dosage form as claimed in claim 8 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of galanthamine, lycoramine and analogs thereof wherein the hydroxy group of such compounds is replaced by a hydrogen or alkoxy group of from one to six carbon atoms or an acyl group of from one to seven carbon atoms.

18 A dosage form of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 7 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of analogs of galanthamine and lycoramine wherein the hydroxy group of galanthamine or lycoramine is replaced by an alkoxy group of from one to six carbon atoms, hydrogen, an alkanoyloxy group, a benzyloxy or substituted benzyloxy group, a carbonate group or a carbamate group.

19. A dosage form as claimed in claim 7 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is galanthamine.
20. A dosage form as claimed in claim 1 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is rivastigmine.
21. A method of treatment of a patient suffering from a disease or condition in which it is desirable to administer a centrally acting acetylcholinesterase inhibitor which comprises administering a dosage form of a pharmaceutical composition which comprises an effective amount of an acetylcholinesterase inhibitor wherein the acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is formulated so as to delay its activity for a specified period prior to acetylcholinesterase inhibition being desired.
22. A method of treatment as claimed in claim 21 wherein said patient is suffering from Alzheimer's disease.
23. A method of treatment as claimed in claim 21 wherein the composition is formulated to delay the activity of the acetyl cholinesterase inhibitor for a period of from four to twelve hours.
24. A method of treatment as claimed in claim 23 wherein the composition is formulated to delay the activity of the acetyl cholinesterase inhibitor for a period of from six to nine hours.
25. A method of treatment as claimed in claim 23 wherein the composition is formulated to delay the activity of the acetyl cholinesterase inhibitor for a period of from eight to twelve hours.
26. A method of treatment as claimed in claim 21 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor has a duration of action of from 2 to 12 hours.

27. A method of treatment as claimed in claim 21 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor has a half life of from one to eleven hours

28 A method of treatment as claimed in claim 21 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of galanthamine, lycoramine and analogs of said compounds wherein at least one of the methoxy, hydroxy or methyl groups of the galanthamine or lycoramine is replaced as follows:

the methoxy group by another alkoxy group of from one to six carbon atoms, a hydroxy group, hydrogen, an alkanoyloxy group, a benzoyloxy or substituted benzoyloxy group, a carbonate group or a carbamate group;

the hydroxy group by an alkoxy group of from one to six carbon atoms, hydrogen, an alkanoyloxy group, a benzoyloxy or substituted benzoyloxy group, a carbonate group or a carbamate group;

the N-methyl group by hydrogen, alkyl, benzyl, cyclopropylmethyl or a substituted or unsubstituted benzoyloxy group.

29. A method of treatment as claimed in claim 28 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of galanthamine, lycoramine and analogs thereof wherein the methoxy group of such compounds is replaced by a hydrogen, hydroxy or alkoxy group of from two to six carbon atoms or an acyloxy group of from one to seven carbon atoms.

30 A method of treatment as claimed in claim 28 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of analogs of galanthamine or lycoramine wherein the methoxy group thereof is replaced by a mono or dialkyl carbamate or carbonate group wherein the alkyl groups contain from 1 to 8 carbon atoms.

31. A method of treatment as claimed in claim 30 wherein the alkyl group or groups of said carbonate or carbamate groups comprise from 4 to 6 carbon atoms

32. A method of treatment as claimed in claim 31 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of analogs of galanthamine or lycoramine wherein the hydroxy group thereof is replaced by a mono or dialkyl carbamate or carbonate group wherein the alkyl groups contain from 1 to 8 carbon atoms.

33. A method of treatment as claimed in claim 32 wherein the alkyl group or groups of said carbonate or carbamate groups comprise from 4 to 6 carbon atoms

34 A method of treatment as claimed in claim 28 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of analogs of galanthamine or lycoramine wherein the methoxy group thereof is replaced by an aryl carbamate or carbonate group wherein said aryl group is selected from phenyl, naphthyl, substituted phenyl and substituted naphthyl groups wherein said substituent is selected from alkyl and alkoxy groups of from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, trifluoro methyl groups and halo groups.

35 A method of treatment as claimed in claim 28 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of analogs of galanthamine and lycoramine wherein the hydroxy group thereof is replaced by an aryl carbamate or carbonate group wherein said aryl group is selected from phenyl, naphthyl, substituted phenyl and substituted naphthyl groups wherein said substituent is selected from alkyl and alkoxy groups of from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, trifluoro methyl groups and halo groups.

36 A method of treatment as claimed in claim 28 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of galanthamine, lycoramine and analogs thereof wherein the hydroxy group of such compounds is replaced by a hydrogen or alkoxy group of from one to six carbon atoms or an acyl group of from one to seven carbon atoms.

37. A method of treatment as claimed in claim 28 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is galanthamine.

38. A method of treatment as claimed in claim 21 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is rivastigmine.
39. A method of treatment as claimed in claim 21 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is administered in conjunction with a compound that reduces its peripheral effects.
40. A method of treatment as claimed in claim 39 wherein said acetylcholinesterase inhibitor is administered in conjunction with a suitable dose of probanthine or robinul.